

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 - 12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) An internal combustion engine flywheel comprising:

a support connected to an output shaft of an internal combustion engine and a starter toothed ring adapted to cooperate with a rotor of a starter motor of said internal combustion engine,

said support having a substantially cylindrical peripheral surface for fixing said ring to said support,

said ring being fixed to said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said support over a part of an extent of a substantially cylindrical inside peripheral surface complementary to said peripheral surface of said support,

wherein said complementary substantially cylindrical inside peripheral surface is one of a substantially cylindrical surface of said ring and of a substantially cylindrical inside peripheral surface of an intermediate annular metal member to which said ring is fixed, the remainder of the complementary substantially cylindrical inside peripheral surface being shaped in such a manner that it is radially separated from said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said support in order that said ring is deformable in the radial direction

toward said shaft to reduce the maximum stresses exerted on said ring during a starting operation.

14. (previously presented) The internal combustion engine flywheel claimed in claim 13, wherein said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of the support belongs to a peripheral part of said support which receives said ring,

said ring has an inside peripheral part comprising said substantially cylindrical complementary inside peripheral surface,

said peripheral part of said support with said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface and a radial surface of contact between said ring and said support has a shape so as to form in radial section an inside angle that is substantially a right angle,

said inside peripheral part of said ring with said complementary substantially cylindrical inside peripheral surface and a complementary radial surface in contact over at least a part of its extent with said radial surface of said support has a complementary shape so as to form in radial section an outside angle that is substantially a right angle, and

said complementary peripheral surface of said ring is fixed over at least a part of its extent to said peripheral surface of said support in such a manner that said complementary radial surface of said ring is slidable along said radial surface of said support.

15. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 14, wherein said ring has an annular part extending axially beyond said teeth in the axial direction away from said complementary radial surface, said annular part has an axial end opposite to said complementary radial surface, and said complementary inside peripheral surface of said ring at said axial end constitutes said region fixed to said peripheral part of said support.

16. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 14, wherein a material favoring sliding of said complementary radial surface of said ring on said radial surface of said support is disposed between said two radial surfaces.

17. (currently amended) The flywheel claimed in claim 13, wherein at least a first portion of said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said support outwardly engages said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said toothed ring by a metal-to-metal fixation, and a second portion of said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said support is radially spaced from said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said toothed ring to create a gap therebetween, said gap corresponding to said radial separation and permitting radial ~~space~~ deformation of said toothed ring during a starting operation.

18. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 17, wherein said metal-to-metal fixation comprises at least one of a shrink fit, a weld, and an intermediate annular metal member.

19. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 17, wherein said second portion of said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said flywheel is slidably associated with

said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said toothed ring.

20. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 13, wherein said toothed ring further comprises an annular groove and a plurality of teeth, said annular groove being disposed between said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of the ring and said teeth.

21. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 17, wherein said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said support comprises at least one substantially cylindrical portion and at least one recessed portion, and said metal-to-metal fixation is disposed only along said at least one substantially cylindrical portion.

22. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 17, wherein the at least one recessed portion comprises at least one of a recess, a flat, and a groove.

23. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 21, comprising at least one pair of opposed, substantially cylindrical portions, and at least one pair of opposed, recessed portions.

24. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 21, wherein a number of separate portions of said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said flywheel that engage said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said toothed ring by metal-to-metal fixation corresponds to a number of cylinders of an internal combustion engine in which the flywheel assembly is installed.

25. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 21, wherein a number of recessed portions of said substantially cylindrical peripheral surface of said flywheel corresponds to a number of cylinders of an internal combustion engine in which the flywheel is installed.

26. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 14, wherein said ring has a plurality of teeth and an annular part extending axially beyond said teeth in the axial direction away from said complementary radial surface, said annular part has an axial end opposite to said complementary radial surface, and said complementary inside peripheral surface of said ring at said axial end constitutes said region fixed to said peripheral part of said support.

27. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 14, which includes an annular deformable ring having a radial section an L-shaped section, stuck to said peripheral surface and to said radial surface of said support on one side, and to said complementary peripheral surface and to said complementary radial surface of said ring on the other side.

28. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 14, wherein said ring is fixed to said support only in peripheral fixing sectors regularly distributed around the axis of said support, leaving free at least one of :
diametrically opposed sectors corresponding to compression areas; and

diametrically opposed sectors corresponding to expansion areas.

29. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 13, wherein said peripheral surface of said support has a recess in at least one of:

the area of each of diametrically opposed sectors corresponding to compression areas; and

the area of each diametrically opposed sectors corresponding to expansion areas.

30. (previously presented) The flywheel claimed in claim 14, wherein said ring is fixed to an intermediate member which includes a portion of said complementary peripheral surface and said complementary radial surface.